

Message Text

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70

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 AF-10 EUR-25 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 SAJ-01 SAM-01

OMB-01 DRC-01 /159 W

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R 171410Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2210

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

USINT DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NY

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 2267

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR IS SY

SUBJ: PRESS PLAY ON ISRAELI-SYRIAN DISENGAGEMENT

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

1. ISRAELI PRESS APRIL 17 CONTINUES TO FOCUS ON DISENGAGEMENT ISSUE WHILE REPORTING ON TWO ASPECTS: ALLEGED DETAILS OF SYRIAN PROPOSALS AS PRESENTED BY SECRETARY TO DINTIZ APRIL 14 AND SADAT'S OPTIMISTIC REMARKS, AS PUBLISHED IN BEIRUT NEWSPAPER, ON SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF SYRIAN-ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT.

2. ON FIRST ASPECT, ALLEGED DETAILS OF LATEST SYRIAN PROPOSAL, PRESS STATES THAT SYRIA IS OPPOSED TO INTERPOSITION OF UNEF BUFFER ZONE BETWEEN ITS FORCES AND ISREL'S AS PART OF A DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT AND FAVORS INSTEAD A NO-MAN'S LAND TO BE PATROLLED BY UNTSO. UNDER SYRIAN PLAN, UNTSO OFFICERS WOULD HAVE ACCESS TO BOTH SYRIAN AND ISRAELI LINES. PRESS

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STATES THAT GOI WILL REJECT UNTSO SUPERVISION SINCE IT WOULD ENTAIL ACCESS BY SOVIET OBSERVERS TO ISRAELI POSITIONS, AS

WELL AS BECAUSE UNTSO WOULD NOT BE AS EFFECTIVE A
PEACEKEEPING MECHANISM AS UNEF. PRESS REPORTS ALSO STATE
THAT SYRIAN PROPOSAL CALLS FOR AN IMMEDIATE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL
FROM APPROXIMATELY ONE-HALF OF AREA CAPTURED BY ISRAEL IN
1967, AS WELL AS WITHDRAWAL FROM ALL TERRITORY TAKEN IN 1973.

3. WASHINGTON-BASED MAARIV CORRESPONDENT STATES THAT SYRIAN
DELEGATION, WHEN PRESENTING THEIR PROPOSAL, DID NOT MENTION
AN ADVANCE ISRAELI COMMITMENT TO A FUTURE WITHDRAWAL FROM
ALL OF THE GOLAN HEIGHTS. MARGALIT OF HAARETZ REPORTS THAT
NO AUTHORITATIVE ISRAELI STAND ON SYRIAN PROPOSAL HAS EMERGED
DUE TO DOMESTIC POLITICAL CRISIS.

4. FINALLY, SADAT'S OPTIMISTIC REMARKS THAT HE WAS CONFIDENT
DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN ISRAEL AND SYRIA WOULD SOON
BE ACCOMPLISHED IS ALSO WIDELY REPORTED IN TODAY'S PRESS.
HOWEVER, CONCERN IS EXPRESSED OVER WHETHER SADAT WAS
AWARE WHEN MAKING HIS REMARKS OF OUTCOME OF ASAD'S VISIT
TO USSR. PRESS CONTINUES TO VOICE UNEASINESS OVER POSSIBILITY
THAT SOVIETS MIGHT SHOOT DOWN EFFORTS TO REACH SYRIAN-ISRAELI
AGREEMENT.

KEATING

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